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Title: Letter from James Buchanan to Lily MacalesterDate: January 20, 1854Location: MC 1998.10, B3, F15

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Legation of The United States. London 20 January 1854

My dear Lily

Alchough I well how that I

have not described your missive of the 9th and, wild not receive unter wither a week, yet let that paps. I would long one this have

Sont you the Darquere ots plas but have never seen one

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far behund us in this as well as in many other respects.

When I was we New York previous to my departure

for this Country Mr. Brady looks a lekenels of me which he said was one of the three best he had we taken.

I know adopted means, through a friend, to have a copy of thes taken made for you & I have no doubt Brady well do his best; - so that you may expects thus any day. If I were at all subject to the Blue Devids which fortunately I am not, I should have had them in perfection succe my arrival in London-The climate is said, alchough not good at best, to have been more disagreeable during this period that to had been at the same season within the memory of mano, The Americans ale escape to Jaris as soon as popuble & they represent that the as charmong. Here there is no general gaits, except in what they call the Scason; I thes toos not fairly commences until about the first of ellas & lerminales with the adjournment of Pasliament some time a

August. Except during this scaron it is not furtuenable for the mobility & gentry to be in London They are all upon their colates in the Country which they consider their seal home is are wandering over the Continents. of course the high officials must remain here. Every body tiles me that this well be done I that well be done in the Season. Harried made a mercifal escape tie not coming with me, as I arrived at the very and of the last search. the of "the Season" the all there and copalians, I should be most happy to cocape the season if I could do so by relarning with honor to my our Country. I should be for happen in retorements at Wheatland that amust the gards of London. But I must submit to my fales & make the best of my silveation. Sweak years ago when in Rupeo I enjoyed a Court life, but my season has haped for such vanities.

The ladies of this toundry are generally of larger Stature & nore robust than the American badies, though they are deficient in the delicates beauty Which is so common un our Country. I altribute thear mar vizorous health to the quantity of igneere which they take we all weathers in the open and . you never see there is full dreps on the sheets; but muffled whe I with thick shows they strede along with an air of much wideprendence . I should be willing to join a society in America to promote excrecce as the open air by our laders. This demato is healthy except for there who have a lendences to consumptive or broncheae chicano. More llate one fourth of all the deaths we London at this season of the year are from diseases of the threat I lung. Please to remember and, we the Kendert terms to your grandmother, faither, Cunt I brother I to James Henry should you see I believe me to be affectionalis & no prestfully Mup dels Macalester - Tames Suchause

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Legation of the United States. London 20 January 1854

#### My Dear Lily/

Although I well know that I have not deserved your missive of the 9th. Instant, ultimo, wc. I did not receive until within a week, yet let that pass. I would long 'ere this have sent you the Daguerreotype; but have never seen one in London which is not a fright. Now as I am getting old I never was very good looking at best, I desire to make my best appearance in your eyes consistently with the truth. This I cannot do by a Daguerreotype taken in London where they are very far behind us in this as well as in many other respects. When I was in New York previous to my departure for this Country Mr. Brady took a likeness of me which he said was one of the three best he had ever taken.

#### [Page Break]

I have adopted means, through a friend, to have a copy of this taken made for you & I have no doubt Brady will do his best;- so that you may expect this any day.

If I were at all subject to the Blue Devils which fortunately I am not, I should have had them in perfection since my arrival in London. The climate is said, although not good at best, to have been more disagreeable during this period than it had been at the same season within the memory of man. The Americans all escape to Paris as soon as possible & they represent that City as charming. Here there is no general gaiety, except in what they call the Season; & this does not fairly commences until about the first of May & terminates with the adjournment of Parliament some time in

#### [Page Break]

August. Except during this season it is not fashionable for the nobility & gentry to be in London. They are all upon their estates in the country which they consider their real home or are wandering over the Continent. Of course the high officials must remain here. Every body tells me that this will be done & that will be done in the Season. Harriet made a merciful escape in not coming with me, as I arrived at the very end of the last season.

With all these the anticipations of "the Season", I should be most happy to escape the season from it if I could do so by returning with honor to my own Country. I should be far happier in retirement at Wheatland than amidst the gaiety of London. But I must submit to my fate & make the best of my situation. Twenty years ago when in Russia I enjoyed a Court life, but my season has passed for such vanities.

#### [Page Break]

The ladies of this Country are generally of larger stature & more robust than the American ladies, though they are deficient in the delicate beauty which is so common in our Country. I attribute their more vigorous health to the quantity of exercise which they take in all weathers in the open air. You never see them in full dress on the streets; but muffled up & with thick shoes

they stride along with an air of much independence. I should be willing to join a society in America to promote exercise in the open air by our ladies.

This climate is healthy except for there who have a tendency to consumptive or bronchial disease. More than one fourth of all the deaths in London at this season of the year are from diseases of the throat & lungs.

Please to remember me, in the kindest terms to your grandmother, father, aunt & brother & to James Henry should you see & believe me to be

> affectionately & respectfully your friend James Buchanan

Miss Lily Macalester